

Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)
Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD) – Conference Room C
Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL: None.

In attendance for meeting: Steph Banthem, Jan Bidwell, Denise Chrysler, Debbie Edokpolo, Sugandha Lowhim, Rod McNeill, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Abby Schwartz, Anne Scott, Derrell Slaughter, Lynne Stauff, Linda Vail, Jessica Yorko

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 by Chairperson Derrell Slaughter. The December 2017 minutes were moved for approval by Abby Schwartz and supported by Garry Rowe; the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Additions to Agenda: Approval of the BOH 2018 Meeting Schedule was added to the agenda as Item #1.

Limited Public Comment: None.

Announcements: Garry Rowe noted that he has been helping teach a class at Williamston High School; two students are doing a sampling project on microplastics and microfiber being found in the Red Cedar River. He has seen both of these cause issues before in failed drainage systems. Garry has informed Ingham Conservation District about this sampling; they will be writing for a grant that could extend the sampling to a larger surrounding area. Once the students finalize their report, Garry will provide the BOH with a copy. Nino Rodriguez asked for a report summarizing the quality of drinking water in Ingham County; Derrell Slaughter suggested BOH be given a presentation on this at a future meeting. Linda Vail introduced Anne Scott, the new Deputy Health Officer for the Community Health Centers (CHCs). Derrell suggested Anne could provide the BOH with a presentation on the CHCs at a future meeting. Denise Chrysler noted that the new State Public Health Advisory Council would be meeting for first time on Friday, 2/9/18; she stated that she'd keep BOH updated on their discussions. Garry informed the group that later this month he would be presenting with the students who have been doing water sampling in Wheatfield Township.

1. BOH 2018 Meeting Schedule - Derrell Slaughter

A draft copy of the 2018 BOH Meeting Schedule was distributed. Based on the updated bylaws, meetings were proposed to take place every other month, with BOH members retaining the ability to call for additional meetings as needed. The 2018 BOH Meeting Schedule was moved for approval by Nino Rodriguez and supported by Jan Bidwell; the motion carried and the schedule was approved.

2. Special Projects - Derrell Slaughter

Derrell Slaughter gave an overview to the group of special projects he'd like to see BOH working on. These include updating the Sanitary Code, the "Cure Violence" initiative, and member attendance at community and ICHD events.

- **Sanitary Code:** Rod McNeill (Director of Environmental Health) stated that in order to meet accreditation, Chapter 2 of the Sanitary Code would need to be updated. There are other chapters that he would also like to begin reviewing. The review process will start later this year; Derrell requested that 2-3 BOH members volunteer to be involved in this process. Denise Chrysler stated her interest and noted that a group of Upper Peninsula Health Departments were planning to update their code. She also noted that there were others in the State who had updated their codes recently and that she hoped ICHD would borrow from these newer versions rather than start from scratch. Rod stated that he has been in contact with the state employee who reviews updated codes and will be involving them in the process. Lynne Stauff and Garry Rowe also agreed to work on this project.
- **Cure Violence:** Jessica Yorko provided the group with an overview of the Cure Violence initiative. This group is looking for innovative ways to prevent violence in communities. Although violent crime has been trending downward in Ingham County, this is still an important issue and one that is increasingly being viewed as a public health issue. Violence can spread through a community similar to the way a contagious disease spreads; the initiative intends to work with community partners to identify ways to "prevent transmission" of that violence. Linda Vail and Sarah Bryant are currently working on a grant through the Kresge Foundation that will allow ICHD to dedicate funding towards a partnership with Cure Violence; this will include a community assessment and conversations with residents and community stakeholders/partners so we can determine what changes could be implemented to decrease violent crime. A letter explaining the initiative and inviting participation will be sent to community partners later this week. Jan Bidwell asked the group's assessment model looked at the impact of traumatic brain injury on the rates of violence within a community; Jessica stated that to her knowledge, it does not include this. Jessica noted that success in this endeavor would include a very close partnership with trauma centers in emergency rooms. Denise asked if there would be geomapping to indicate the concentration of violence/assaults within Ingham County; Jessica stated that this would be one of the components of the partnership. Denise also asked about the environmental factors that can lead to increased violence, such as the prevalence of bars and if anything could be done to reduce the impact these factors can have. Jessica stated her enthusiasm for looking at the issue through a variety of angles. Nino Rodriguez noted that there are many organizations in Lansing working on this issue; Jessica agreed with this and explained that a lot of assistance will be needed from those groups in order for this to be successful. She asked that BOH members who have connections to community stakeholder put them in touch with her so they can be involved in the process. Linda Vail clarified that this process is less about a new group being formed and more about creating a new prevention model for existing groups to follow. Derrell, Abby Schwartz, and Jan indicated their interest in assisting with this project but Jessica noted that BOH members making introductions to and following up with key stakeholders would be most helpful.
- **Community/ICHD Events:** A list of events for the year will be distributed to everyone; Derrell encouraged BOH Members to try and attend 2-3 per year if at all possible.

3. Strategic Plan Workgroups - Derrell Slaughter

Group #1 (Advocate for Policies/Programs to Reduce Preventable Perinatal Deaths) had worked with Regina on a letter to promote breastfeeding last year. Garry Rowe stated that he had provided some local faith-based organizations with information promoting breastfeeding. While some have taken the initiative to promote this issue already, Garry noted that some organizations still had reservations about public breastfeeding. This is representative of the issue Group #1 will continue to work on. Group #2 (Advocate for Changes in Policies Which Create Barriers to STI & HIV/AIDS Screening & Treatment) did not have an update. On behalf of Group #3 (Promote ICHD Adolescent & Adult Vaccination Activities), Denise Chrysler noted that a multisector

meeting to discuss adolescent immunizations had been setup, but had to be rescheduled for a future date. It will now be held on 3/1/18 from 11:30am to 1pm in ICHD HSB Conference Room A if anyone would like to attend. Nino Rodriguez expressed concern about the number of unvaccinated people and asked how they can be persuaded to do so. Dr. Sugandha Lowhim noted that people and groups are still rallying against Michigan requiring a waiver be obtained when a parent chooses not to vaccinate their kids. Denise said that she'd be keeping track of these efforts and would update the group if anything came up. The group discussed the various benefits associated with obtaining vaccinations. Debbie Edokpolo informed the group that Health Heroes would soon be coming into local schools to give vaccines directly to children, with parental permission. Jan Bidwell suggested talking about pediatric fatalities due to lack of vaccinations, but this is a difficult number to quantify. Derrell suggested a presentation on flu season and vaccines would be good to have at a future BOH meeting.

4. Public Health Update - Linda Vail

Linda Vail informed the group that Clean Water Action had been canvassing residents, primarily in Ingham County's urban areas regarding the current Sanitary Code requirement for septic inspections. Currently, septic inspections are performed whenever a house with septic system is sold. Clean Water Action is encouraging residents to contact their commissioners and advocate for a new requirement that septic inspections take place every 3 years. Linda stated that this requirement would be excessive and is not something she could support, although she'd like to work with the group on finding a reasonable balance. The current statewide draft Sanitary Code is looking at increasing this requirement to inspections every 10 years. Linda believes this is a much more realistic/reasonable goal. She's working with ICHD's Environmental Health (EH) office to develop a fact sheet for the Board of Commissioners (BOC) on this issue. EH has been performing point of sale (POS) inspections for the last 12 years, they've inspected around 25% of the estimated 20,000 septic systems in Ingham County. This fact sheet will provide a summary of what increasing inspection frequency to every 10 years could look like so the BOC is informed on the issue. Before a new inspection frequency could be adopted, EH would need to identify all the septic systems currently in place and when (or if) they were last inspected. The BOC could either adopt this as a new regulation or approve it as part of an updated Sanitary Code.

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 pm on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 in Conference Room B at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.